

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C §102

The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-20, 25-28 and 34-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeuchi, JP 09-108431, is respectfully traversed.

Takeuchi, quite simply, does not disclose a plurality of attractors linked together, wherein each attractor is respectively associated with an individual machine.

Takeuchi discloses a single "lucky character", or combination of lucky characters, associated with a group of machines and capable of directing its actions and sounds toward any one of the pachinko or gaming machines. The lucky characters are positioned in a home position and upon a signal input (grand prize), the lucky character moves in a longitudinal direction to the winning gaming machine. The moving mechanism mimics a conveyor-type movement, and is described in reference to figures 7 and 8. Takeuchi further discloses that the lucky characters can rotate.

The most distinctive feature between Takeuchi and the present invention is the gaming machines of Takeuchi do not have a lucky character associated with *each* machine. The present invention teaches an attractor associated with each machine and specifically claims "an attraction mechanism for each gaming machine".

Further, the present invention discloses gaming machines linked such that if a predetermined event occurs on any one of the gaming machines, then the attraction mechanisms on *each* linked gaming machine are operated as a group.

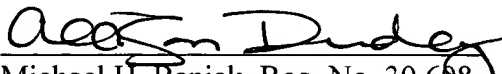
In contrast to Applicant's foregoing Claims, the Takeuchi patent does not disclose or suggest linked gaming machines with an attraction mechanism associated with *each* gaming machine and further operating all attraction mechanisms as a group as recited in independent Claims 1, 8, 14, 25 and 34.

A Notice of Allowability is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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